# EPI Update for Friday, June 28, 2013 Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) lowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

### Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- Cyclospora in Iowa
- Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Influenza H7N9 information cards for ill travelers
- Update on recent infant botulism cases
- Fourth of July picnics and the possibility of foodborne illness
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

#### Cyclospora in Iowa

This week two cases of the intestinal parasitic disease cyclospora were reported. Cyclospora infections are characterized by watery diarrhea (which may be intermittent), and symptoms of fatigue, anorexia, myalgia, abdominal cramps, flatus and nausea. Infection is often associated with ingestion of fresh produce, fresh herbs or berries. Diagnosis requires microscopic identification of the oocytes preferably using a modified acid fast or Kinyoun stain (this testing is available at the State Hygienic Laboratory). If any cases are suspected, please request this testing and notify public health.

For more information visit: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/cyclosporiasis/">www.cdc.gov/parasites/cyclosporiasis/</a>

# Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Influenza H7N9 information cards for ill travelers

Travelers who have recently visited the Middle East or Asia and are exhibiting respiratory symptoms with fever will be given information cards at the airport on MERS or H7N9, depending on location of travel. Both cards advise patients to seek medical care if their symptoms worsen and include a "Note to the Doctor" section with information on the disease, available testing, and directions for contacting public health.

IDPH was recently contacted concerning a possible case of MERS in Iowa. The patient had traveled to the Middle East and exhibited mild respiratory symptoms. IDPH worked with the physician to acquire specimens and facilitate laboratory testing. The specimens tested negative.

If you suspect a patient may be infected with MERS or H7N9, please contact IDPH immediately. For recommendations and guidance on MERS-Co V, visit <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/MERS/index.html">www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/MERS/index.html</a>. For information on H7N9, visit <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h7n9-virus.htm">www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h7n9-virus.htm</a>.

#### Update on recent infant botulism cases

Both of the babies with recent laboratory-confirmed infant botulism are recovering. One of the cases was infected with the *Clostridium baratii*, which produces Type F botulinum toxin. This organism is extremely rare, and has only been observed a handful of times

worldwide. IDPH is working with the California Department of Public Health (which coordinates infant botulism response for the entire U.S.) to perform a detailed follow-up investigation.

## Fourth of July picnics and the possibility of foodborne illness

Outdoor picnics and get-togethers on the Fourth of July may result in cases of foodborne illness. Performing stool testing on patients that present with acute gastrointestinal symptoms allows IDPH to track and identify diseases and outbreaks that may otherwise go unnoticed.

# **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**None

Please note: There will be no Epi Update published next week because of the Fourth of July holiday; the next edition will be published July 12th.

## Have a safe and happy Fourth of July week!

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